

Message Text

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM TECH IAEA UR

SUBJ: INFORMATION RE USSR PNE TECHNOLOGY

REF : IAEA VIENNA 399; IAEA VIENNA 642

1. AT CONCLUSION OF IAEA PNE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON FRIDAY, 24 JANUARY, NORDYKE, LLL, ENGAGED IN SEMI-PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET PARTICIPANT M. P. GRECHUSHKINA REGARDING CLARIFICATION OF SEVERAL POINTS IN HER PAPER PRESENTED TO US DELEGATION AT US-USSR BILATERALS DURING PREVIOUS WEEK. A. HOLZER, LLL, WAS PRESENT DURING PART OF CONVERSATION, BUT NO SOVIETS OTHER THAN GRECHUSHKINA, WHO IS ANUCLEAR PHYSICIST SPECIALIZING IN CALCULATIONS OF RADIATION EXPOSURES FROM PNE CRATERING APPLICATIONS.

2. IN HER PAPER AT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS SHE HAD GIVEN PREDICTIOONS OF DOSES UNDER SEVERAL CONDITIONS ASSUMING TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF EXPLOSIONS:

A. A HYPOTHETICAL SOVIET EXPLOSIVE WITH FISSION YEILD OF 0.5 KT AND

B. "PRESENT LEVEL OF EXPLOSIVE TECHNOLOGY", BASED LARGELY ON
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PUBLISHED DATA ON THE US SCHOONER EXPLOSIVE.

3. THESE TWO EXPLOSIVE SYSTEMS WERE ALSO BASIS FOR SOVIET PAPERS PRESENTED AT THIRD US-USSR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON IN 1971.

4. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION, NORDYKE QUERIED GRECHUSHKINA REGARDING HOW EXPLOSIVES USED IN 1971 PECHOR-KAMA EVENT (DESCRIBED AT RECENT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AND IAEA MEETING) WOULD COMPARE WITH THESE TWO EXAMPLES. GRECHUSHKINA REPLIED THAT PECHORA-KAMA EXPLOSIVES WERE QUOTE QUITE SIMILAR TO THE HYPOTHETICAL EXPLOSIVE, PERHAPS A LITTLE BETTER, BUT ALMOST THE SAME UNQUOTE. THIS REPLY WOULD INDICATE THAT SOVIETS HAD NUCLEAR EXCAVATION EXPLOSIVES WITH FISSION YIELD OF ABOUT 0.5 KT AS EARLY AS MARCH 1971.
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